

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 749
By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Melbourne Davis "M. D." Overton, Sr. of McMinnville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Melbourne Davis "M. D." Overton, Sr., a prominent businessman and respected resident of McMinnville and Warren County; and

WHEREAS, M. D. Overton was an exemplary citizen of his community and a consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Knox County, to the late Otis Howard and Margaret McCampbell Overton, Mr. Overton moved to McMinnville with his family in 1965; and

WHEREAS, M. D. Overton served with acumen and ability as owner and operator of Valley Feeds, in which position he earned the respect of his customers and fellow businessmen alike for his demonstrated ability; he became affiliated with Early and Daniel Feed Company after moving to McMinnville and shortly afterwards built one of the first automated poultry facilities in the Rock Island Community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Overton was a leader in the pork industry as a partner in the largest pork production facility in Tennessee as well as a leader in the poultry industry; he also worked with the John Deere Tractor and Ralston Purina companies in Knoxville and served as Vice President of the Caney Fork and Western Railroad; and

WHEREAS, always ready to serve his community, M. D. Overton was a member of the Noon Rotary Club and was a director of the Chamber of Commerce, which honored him as the first recipient of their Distinguished Citizen Award; and

WHEREAS, M. D. Overton, one of the key developers of the East Side Baptist Church, served faithfully for many years as a deacon of the First Baptist Church of McMinnville; prior to coming to McMinnville, he served as church treasurer of Central Baptist Church in Bearden,

where he was ordained in 1963. He became a member at First Baptist Church of McMinnville following his move to Warren County and served again as church treasurer and trustee; he was honored as Deacon Emeritus by his fellow deacons in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Overton was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, M. D. Overton enjoyed the loving companionship of Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Shanks Overton and was the proud father of daughter and son-in-law Deborah Jane and Charlie Smartt and son and daughter-in-law Melbourne Davis and Nan Overton, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, besides his wife and children, Mr. Overton will be sorely missed by his grandchildren, Byron Smartt, Jamie Smartt Parker, John Smartt, Taylor Overton and Jackson Overton; his great-grandson Jacob Parker; his sister and brother-in-law, Peggy and Elbert Marguerat; his sister-in-law, Doris Shanks; his brothers-in-law, John Shanks and Jimmy Tucker; several nieces and nephews; and a host of friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, M. D. Overton leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Melbourne Davis "M. D." Overton, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Overton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.